VAMPIRELLA

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Vampirella Aided by Priest in 50th Anniversary Celebration

Vampirella's turning 50—and her readers are getting the gift!

July 17th will mark the 50th anniversary of Warren Magazines' release of ***Vampirella #1.*** To commemorate the event, Dynamite Entertainment will relaunch the flagship franchise with an all-new ***#1*** released on the same day and month as that iconic magazine—and to make the event doubly special, they've enlisted acclaimed writer *Christopher Priest* to helm the relaunch.

Priest's storied career in comics spans 40 years as both a writer and an editor (in fact, he was the first African-American editor for a mainstream comics publisher). He has created the adventures of Black Panther, Captain America, Conan, Deadpool, Deathstroke, Green Lantern, the Justice League, and many others. Priest will be joined on art and colors by Turkish artist *Ergün Gündüz*.

"This version of Vampirella is set in the real world, as real as I'm allowed to make it," Priest said. "What if an alien from another planet were stranded here? What if that alien looked like one of the Kardashians and wore barely any clothing at all? And had fangs, drank blood, and sprouted bat wings? We'd assume she was a vampire. But she's not a creature of occult origins. She's a Martian who's now stuck here with us idiots who stereotype her as this *thing* because she looks and functions a certain way. That would seem to be an allegory for how we treat each other: for racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and religious persecution."

What part of Vampirella's origins will Priest keep in his "revamped back-to-basics" approach? It certainly sounds like some elements of the *Forrest Ackerman–Tom Sutton* origin are being reinstated. "I'm keeping *everything*," Priest said. "Most people familiar with my work will understand my reluctance to undo anything any other writer has done. I think it really unfair, and I've hated it when it's been done to me. For ***Black Panther,*** we kept it all—even the campy 'Happy Pants' *Jack Kirby* version of the character. For ***Deathstroke,*** I had to bring his supporting cast back to life—that couldn't be avoided, and they really shouldn't have been killed off in the first place.

"For ***Vampirella***, whatever has happened actually happened. Vampi has many origins, and we've kept them all, which *Paul Cornell* made easy to do with his brilliant use of what we are now simply calling 'The Book' in his 'Forbidden Fruit' run. So, pick the origin you like. Yep, it happened.

"The origin I *prefer* is the original—astronauts crashing on Drakulon. We've modified it a bit because of my desire to ground this run in as much reality as Dynamite will allow, and human beings have not yet developed technology to travel to other planets.

"My working theory is Drakulon exists within metaphysics, possibly an alternate reality or other dimension or however you choose to look at it, with a dimensional gateway or door which could easily be theologically interpreted as a 'gate to hell' or other such nonsense.

"I think if you or I were transported back in time with our iPhone, an entire theology would likely erupt around our visit, and our routine technology would be interpreted as mysticism of either divine or occult origin. Are the Vampiri of occult origin? Yes, no, maybe. Depends on what you choose to believe, and I try not to invalidate anyone's belief system."

Comics have always had an affection for the "fish out of water" hero, whether it's the last Kryptonian or a lost Martian stranded on Earth or an exiled god or an ostracized mutant. "Oh, that plays to mankind's nascent insecurity," Priest said. "I'm 127 years old and still have the occasional dream where I'm standing in front of my sixth-grade class in my underwear. None of us are perfect, none of us truly 'belong.' Those of us who believe we are perfect, that we are entitled, and who never personally experience the fish-out-of-water syndrome are usually the larger anuses among us."

Who, if anyone, is aware of Vampirella's origins and her true nature? "We are developing a new supporting cast, so obviously we don't want to spoil things," Priest said. "But Vampi will be seeing a therapist to whom she has revealed 'most everything."

What about her adversaries? "Oh, the gang's all here. You name 'em, they're here," Priest said. "But we are slow-rolling them and reinterpreting them, hopefully without invalidating anything we've seen before. What I am actively attempting to steer away from is the penchant for making all of her foes mostly-nude attractive white women. My impression of Vampirella—a vampiric Barbarella, perhaps—was that she was conceived in gentle satire to make a statement about femininity and sexuality and who takes ownership of those qualities. If Vampirella's sling bikini is sexist, then who gets to decide her dress code and to whose standard should she submit herself?

"I believe, in today's volatile partisan environment, the (very) fine line between sexual exploitation and sexual emancipation lies in the motive of the character: What motivates Vampirella to make the choices she makes (including her wardrobe or lack thereof)?

"As for the baddies making her life miserable, we will hopefully be making these characters, many of whom are female, better representative of what actual women look like, in a more diverse collection of shapes, sizes, colors, and creeds. I personally believe all women, from eight to eighty-eight, are beautiful, not just perfectly proportioned pin-up models. Vampirella is who Vampirella is, so we're not planning to muck with her classic visuals, but there is both opportunity and obligation to better represent what actual women look and talk like, what they want, what they feel, in how these characters relate to our beloved Vampiri. Which is a pretty arrogant statement for a male to make..."

Will Priest be able to leverage her backstory to make Vampirella both an adventure hero and an allegorical statement on humanity? "I dunno. You'll have to read the book and tell me," Priest said. "I'm having fun, more fun than I've had in this business in a very long time. There is a great deal of humor, a great deal of pathos. If you liked ***Quantum and Woody!***, you'll like this. If you read the early Marvel Knights ***Black Panther***, you'll like this.

"A long time ago, *Denys Cowan, Tom Palmer*, and I produced ***Steel***, a dark satire of the Superman mythos about a dysfunctional Superman trapped in a dysfunctional Metropolis (Jersey City), with a dysfunctional Lois Lane (his love interest Amanda Quick), and a dysfunctional Jimmy Olsen (his rambunctious niece Natasha). It was a clever 'Life of Brian' deconstruction that flew completely under DC's radar because nobody in editorial was reading the book except Fran, our editor, who was our co-conspirator.

"This ***Vampirella*** run may echo some of that to the extent that I am writing a story about a woman in search of community, who desperately wants and needs love and family, who finds both, then has both ripped away from her, and how she goes about seeking vengeance. She is the strange visitor from another planet who came to Earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. And, like Dr Henry (Steel) Irons (or, for that matter, *Bob Newhart*, for the three of you old enough to have seen either of his classic sitcoms), she is likely the only sane person in a comic book filled with nuts of all shapes and sizes."

Priest admits that Vampirella wasn't one of those "creative bucket list" characters he had always dreamed of writing. "I was aware of the character, certainly, and had read a few stories, but I was never what anyone could describe as a fan of the character. I am an ordained former Baptist pastor, which doesn't preclude my having read or seen racy material, but neither sexually oriented nor occult-based works are my go-to for entertainment.

"Which is why Dynamite Publisher *Nick Barrucci's* offer kind of stopped me in my

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

tracks. Vampirella? *Really*? Could I find something to say with the character that would be both positive and uplifting even within the context of sexually tinged occultism? Will readers be suspect of my trying to proselytize or impose my own convictions on the character and legacy?

"I have no idea why Nick chose me, but the challenge was irresistible. For much the same reason I took on ***Deathstroke***—could I find something positive to say about a hardened killer?—I am excited about the journey with Vampirella, whom I see as an innocent marooned here in our cynical and sadly polarized world.

"There'll be a lot of my pastor buddies and likely some laymen who'll give me grief over this. Their objection will be based, first and foremost, on how she's dressed—something other writers have tried to deal with in different ways. But, as I see it, either I'm going to write Vampirella or I'm not. I won't dress her in a gunnysack and call that Vampirella. So the mission becomes to validate why she dresses that way and how she feels about the legion of people demanding she put something on.

"At the end of the day, the main beef against Vampirella is all the cheesecake. I get that. Now, once we put her in a Hillary pantsuit, then I'll hear all this static about how a devout Christian should not be writing vampires. There are legions of people out there anxious to tell everybody how they should live. I'm not one of them."

"Priest is a guy who loves to challenge conventions, that's part of what makes him so great. As a kid, though, I'm sure he drove his mother insane," Senior Editor *Matt Idelson* said. "This series is definitely going to challenge the readers, but not in a not-entertaining way. It's been a blast to work on so far, and having a year-long plan with seeds being planted from the outset and watching them grow as we go along is incredibly fun and satisfying, and I think it'll be that way for the readers as well."

"This is a truly historic moment for Vampirella and Dynamite as each celebrates a landmark anniversary year in 2019! I have wanted to work with *Christopher Priest* forever, and we had talked about it for years, but with his workload he couldn't commit to a project. Finally, knowing that to get him I had to talk to him face to face, I drove up to see him at Terrificon, and basically said, 'This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to write the new ***Vampirella*** series for her 50th anniversary. Give it some thought on your flight home. You're either in or out, and I hope you're in. I know you'll do her justice,' and we're thankful he said yes," said *Nick Barrucci*, Dynamite CEO and publisher. "Everyone knows—and if they don't they should know—that Christopher is one of the most brilliant writers in the industry, and it's a pleasure to treat fans to his take on Vampirella. His story is fresh and inspired, and he is taking her to places she's never been. Priest's body of work will stand the test of time like few others. I cannot think of many artists who can complement Priest's scripts as well as Ergün does with his incredible execution. It truly is an honor to be working with these talented creators—a high watermark in my career."

"I'm having a blast writing this thing, and artist *Ergün Gündüz* is an absolute gift to me," Priest added. "His intuition, sensitivity, and stellar sequential art chops are simply amazing, a refreshing break from the superhero house style. His amazing color rendering takes the work to an even higher level, making me look and sound smarter than I actually am."

Vampirella #1, scheduled for July 17th release, will feature cover art by an array of top talent, including *Frank Cho, Alex Ross, Joe Jusko, Guillem March, Erica Fett,* and *Adam Hughes,* as well as a limited edition variant by *Sanjulian,* one of the finest illustrators who portrayed Vampirella during the Warren years. Readers who'd like to get in on the ground floor of Priest's run will also want to pick up Dynamite's ***Free Comic Book Day 2019 Vampirella #0,*** available at participating comic shops on May 4th.

by Cliff Biggers

Definitely Not a Boar-ing Story!

A girl and her tardigrade?

That's pretty much the idea behind ***Star Pig,*** a new comic from *Delilah S. Dawson & Francesco Gaston.* This science fiction series follows a teenage girl whose summer camp trip goes wrong in the most spectacular way imaginable.

Sixteen-year-old Vess's trip to summer Space Camp (not a camp *about* space, a camp *in* space!) is cut short when a shuttle accident dumps her into space. But then a gigantic, space-faring water bear miraculously rescues Vess and her beloved retro Discman, and it's the beginning of an extraordinary friendship and an incredible journey, all set to the tunes of Vess's 1990s-heavy playlist.

"***Star Pig*** is the story of a lost girl and a giant space tardigrade, just trying to get back home," Dawson said. "No, ***Star Pig*** is actually a love song to nostalgia and growing up, to the bone-deep knowledge that you can never go back to the way things were. NO! ***Star Pig*** is really about what happens when the rest of the universe is as obsessed with American Earth culture as we are, and the first human to make contact with aliens finds that they're cloning Laika, collecting pogs, jamming out to Weezer, and using words like tubular. It's a mish-mash of the '80s, '90s, and '00s through the lens of a teen girl who never really felt at home in her own time—but who might yet find her place among the stars."

"When I started working with Delilah a couple of years ago, her storytelling talent and work ethic were evident immediately. Soon we were discussing what she might like to create from scratch, and thus a ***Star Pig*** was born," Group Editor *Denton J. Tipton* said. "The story is a retro-chic road trip through pop culture, but it's also packed with new ideas and universal themes that resonate. Plus, giant tardigrade!"

Star Pig #1, slated for July release, will feature covers by *Sara Richard* and *Francesco Gaston.*

DC's "Giant" Tales Become Two-in-Ones

Last year, DC launched a controveral program to put comics in select mass-market retail stores across the country; while the comics are mostly New 52–era reprints, each issue features an original 12-page story aimed at established fans—stories by such high-profile creators as *Tom King, Andy Kubert, Sandra Hope, Brian Bendis, Nick Derrington, Amanda Conner, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Chad Hardin.*

Since then, DC has announced a change in policy: It will relaunch the deluxe line this fall, increasing the number of new pages

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from 12 to 24—and it will make those comics available to comic shops across the country.

But what about those original stories already published?

DC is making it easy for you to acquire those stories at your friendly neighborhood comic shop by collecting the 12 installments in six-issue series, each issue featuring two chapters.

Superman: Up in the Sky #1 (by *Tom King, Andy Kubert, & Sandra Hope)* follows Superman as he investigates a home invasion that ends in murder—but even Superman is surprised by where the investigation takes him and how it ties in to the far-off world of Rann.

Batman Universe #1 (by *Brian Bendis & Nick Derrington)* begins with the theft of a priceless Fabergé egg. As Batman attempts to solve the crime, the Riddler leads him on a wild hunt after its true owner: Jinny Hex, a descendant of the haunted Western hero Jonah Hex.

Wonder Woman: Come Back to Me #1 (by *Amanda Conner, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Chad Hardin)* begins when Steve Trevor is called in for a test flight of an experimental new aircraft; he winds up lost in the Bermuda Triangle—and it's up to Wonder Woman and Etta Candy to follow his trail to a mysterious and savage island.

Superman: Up in the Sky #1 is scheduled for July 3rd release; ***Batman Universe #1,*** for July 10th release; and ***Wonder Woman: Come Back to Me #1,*** for July 17th release.

Sue Storm Becomes Highly Visible in July

Her power may be invisibility, but *Mark Waid, Mattia De Iulis,* and cover artist *Adam Hughes* are doing their best to ensure that everyone notices Sue Storm this summer!

Invisible Woman will follow Sue on a journey that will unlock the secrets of her past in the most surprising way. Sue Storm, agent of SHIELD? Apparently so—but that was years ago. She thought she had put all that behind her... but when her former partner at SHIELD is in danger, it's up to the Invisible Woman to play hero.

"In over 50 years, she's never had her own title (or maybe she did and you just didn't see it,)" SVP and Executive Editor *Tom Brevoort* said. "Waid and Iulis will be delving into what Sue Richards does—and even who she is—on her own time, apart from her famous family! It's sure to surprise some—as will a few of the gestures-players who'll be passing through the story!"

Invisible Woman #1, the kickoff of a five-issue limited series, is scheduled for July release.

IDW's Care Package

Apparently there are plenty of caring fans! ***Care Bears*** has proven so successful in its reincarnation as a Boomerang cartoon that IDW is ready to entertain fans with all-new ***Care Bears*** comic book adventures.

Following the success of the new hit Boomerang cartoon, IDW Publishing and Cloudco Entertainment are proud to announce an all-new Care Bears comic book and graphic novel program.

Expanding upon the imaginative ***Care Bears: Unlock the Magic*** streaming series with new story content, IDW will debut its first fun-filled issue in July 2019.

"Care Bears has been a touchstone for generations," Editor-in-chief *John Barber* said. "I had their toys and stuffed animals when I was a kid, and my daughter has them now. They're characters parents and kids get to share — and just like the ***Care Bears: Unlock the Magic*** animated series, our comic brings them into modern times while staying true to the characters we love!"

Care Bears #1, by *Matthew Erman, Nadia Shammas, & Agnes Garbowska,* follows the Care Bears, along with their pals the Whiffles, as they protect their realm from the negative influence of the mischievous Bluster and his Bad Crowd.

"I am extremely excited to be working on ***Care Bears,*** since it was such a huge part of my childhood and impacted me greatly," Garbowska said. "I hope the series brings the same love and joy to new fans as it did for me."

Care Bears #1 is scheduled for July release.

Craig Yoe Makes His Marvel

Marvel has so much rich history, not even Marvel themselves can chronicle it all. And that's where Yoe Books, the imprint founded and curated by multiple Eisner Award winner *Craig Yoe,* comes in.

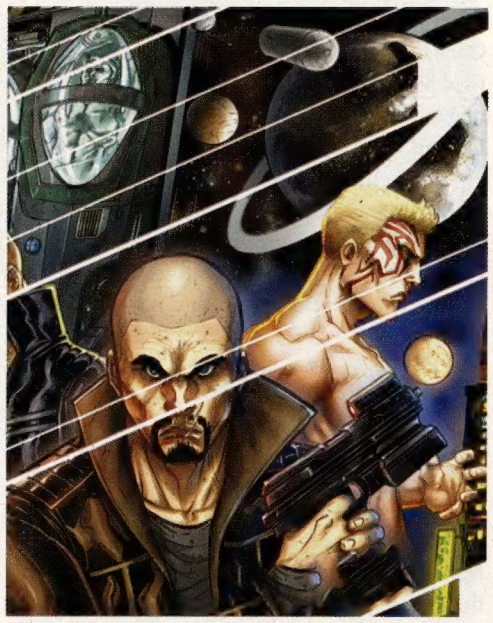
Yoe has reached an agreement to produce large-format hardcovers presenting some of the finest artwork from Marvel history—art that ranges from the early days of the Golden Age through the grandeur of the Marvel Age of Comics.

Yoe's premiere Marvel-focused offering will be ***Marvel Masterwork Pin-Ups,*** which collects striking full-page pinup images by some of the most talented illustrators in the Marvel Bullpen, including *Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Jim Steranko, Don Heck, John Byrne, Barry Windsor-Smith, John Severin, Wally Wood, Dan DeCarlo,* and *John Romita.* Yoe said that the images (which include pinups of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, Thor, Doctor Strange, the Hulk, the X-Men, and even Millie the Model!) will be "accompanied throughout with witty wordage, pulse-pounding patter, and zany zingers by *Stan 'The Man' Lee.*"

"I'm the person that I am (such as that is) because of Stan, Jack, Steve, and the other early Marvel creators inspiring me in my Peter Parker teenage years," Yoe said. "To take this 'journey into history' with this—the first in a line of Marvel books—is an amazing, fantastic, incredible thrill for this proud charter member of the Merry Marvel Marching Society!"

Marvel Masterwork Pin-Ups, a 120-page 9" x 12" hardcover from IDW, is scheduled for July 10th release; additional Marvel volumes from Yoe Books are slated for release later in 2019.

CSN TOP COMIC



ALTERED CARBON: DOWNLOAD BLUES HC

Richard K. Morgan & Rik Hoskin (W); Ferran Sellares

(Dynamite MAR191074 $24.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the distant future, the human body is a temporary and interchangeable commodity... if you can pay. However, some bodies are more temporary than others... Takeshi Kovacs was once a member of the Envoy Corps, stormtroopers for the Interstellar Earth Protectorate, ultra-lethal adepts in switching bodies across the stars. Now he's out of the service and trying to live a different life. But will he ever really be able to walk away?

Why Should You Care?

Richard K. Morgan's best-selling science fiction novels, already a hit Netflix series, come to comics with this original graphic novel co-written by Morgan and *Rik Hoskin*.

BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS #1

Bryan Hill (W); Dexter Soy (A)

(DC MAR190467 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

When the quest for justice drives Batman into some morally ambiguous areas, he calls in the most moral man he knows: Jefferson Pierce, aka Black Lightning, and his team of operatives known as the Outsiders! But when Black Lightning, Katana, the Signal, and Orphan find out what Batman is *really* up to, their loyalty will be called into question.

Why Should You Care?

Bryan Hill & Dexter Soy relaunch the fondly remembered Outsiders franchise, restoring Batman to the titular role. But how long will he be able to *maintain* that role? We can't wait to find out!

BATMAN: DAMNED #3 (OF 3)

Brian Azzarello (W); Lee Bermejo (A)

(DC MAR190493 $6.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's most baffling case brings him face to face with his worst nightmare in this highly anticipated finale!

Why Should You Care?

After months of delays, this controversial Azzarello-Bermejo series finally reaches its conclusion—but knowing the caliber of these creators, it'll undoubtedly be worth the wait!

BATMAN: LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH #1 (OF 3)

Scott Snyder (W); Greg Capullo (A)

(DC MAR190458 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

Bruce Wayne wakes up in Arkham Asylum. Young. Sane. And... he was never Batman. So begins this sprawling tale of the Dark Knight as he embarks on a quest through a devastated DC landscape featuring a massive cast of familiar faces from the DC Universe. As he tries to piece together the mystery of his past, he must unravel the cause of this terrible future and track down the unspeakable force that destroyed the world as he knew it.

Why Should You Care?

The creative team responsible for the landmark *Court of Owls* and *Dark Nights: Metal,* reunites for this unforgettable three-part DC Black Label series.

DC'S YEAR OF THE VILLAIN #1

Brian Michael Bendis, Scott Snyder, & James Tynion IV (W); Jim Cheung, Alex Maleev, & Francis Manapul (A)

(DC MAR190460 $0.25)

What's the Scoop?

Lex Luthor and the Legion of Doom conspire with Cosmic Gods, bending mankind toward a dark destiny. Elsewhere, the scourge of Leviathan spreads unchecked, seizing power in every corner of the world. And all the while the Batman Who Laughs busies himself in the shadows, aligned with no one, but with sinister plans for all.

Why Should You Care?

The Year of the Villain, an all-new bargain-priced comic that you can't afford *not* to check out, will kick off DC's biggest event of 2019—and you can get in on the ground floor for mere pocket change!

DCEASED #1 (OF 6)

Tom Taylor (W); Trevor Hairsine & Stefano Gaudiano (A)

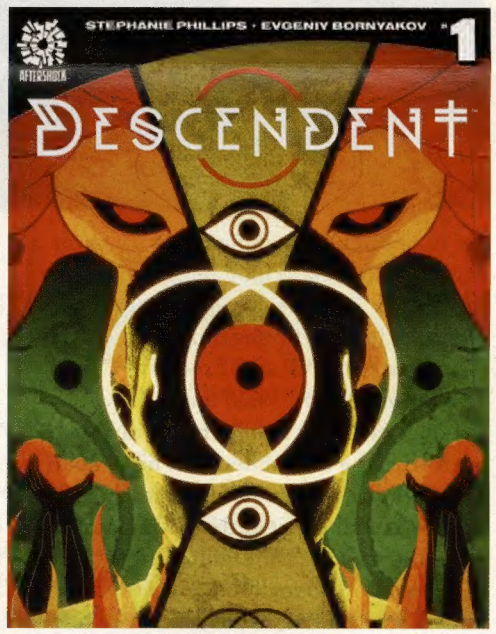
(DC MAR190464 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A mysterious techno-virus is released on Earth, infecting 600 million people and turning them instantly into violent, monstrous engines of destruction. The heroes of the DCU, completely unprepared for a pandemic of this magnitude, struggle to save their loved ones first... but what happens to the World's Greatest Heroes if the world ends? And what is Darkseid's connection to all this?

Why Should You Care?

If you dismissed *DCeased* as "DC Zombies," then you haven't seen what writer *Tom Taylor* has in the works for this apocalyptic limited series. (Word to the wise: Don't miss those movie poster variant covers!)



DESCENDENT #1

Stephanie Phillips (W); Evgeny Bornyakov (A)

(AfterShock MAR191362 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Conspiracy theories, government corruption, and a really good Prince mix drive David Corey to help solve the mysterious disappearance of a famous politician's son. When David realizes that the truth is much more dangerous than a kidnapping, he must battle ancient secrets that have endangered the lives of children for centuries.

Why Should You Care?

It may start off as a kidnapping thriller, but *Descendent* soon turns into a conspiracy-driven tale of secret history and corruption at the highest level—sort of like the newspaper, but with more likeable characters!

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #10 (OF 12)

Geoff Johns (W); Gary Frank (A)

(DC JAN190585 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

At long last, we learn the secrets behind Dr Manhattan and his connection to the DC Universe.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Gary Frank have constructed the ultimate multiversal superhero tale with this compelling series that explores the very nature, purpose, and origins of the DC Universe.

DRAWING BLOOD: SPILLED INK #1 (OF 4)

Kevin Eastman & David Avallone (W); Kevin Eastman & others (A)

(Kevin Eastman Studios MAR191847 $3.99)

RADICALLY REARRANGED RONIN RAGDOLLS ONESHOT

Kevin Eastman & David Avallone (W); Troy Little (A)

(Kevin Eastman Studios MAR191849 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Once upon a time, Shane "Books" Bookman co-created *The Radically Rearranged Ronin Ragdolls*, a gritty, funny indie comic that became a billion-dollar global franchise. Now, years later, the partnership dissolved, the corporate buy-out all spent, Books is struggling to recover from the hit-and-run driver called early success... and looking for the will and the joy to create something new again.

CS: MAY

Why Should You Care?

If you think this is nothing more than an autobiographical *roman à clef*, then you're in for a surprise. Eastman and Avallone have created an insightful, character-driven drama that explores the creative urge. And to make it even more fun, Eastman is also producing an issue of *Shane Bookman's* ***Radically Rearranged Ronin Ragdolls*** so that readers can see just what brought him such fame to begin with.

FALLEN WORLD #1 (OF 5)

Dan Abnett (W); Adam Pollina (A)

(Valiant MAR192061 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the year 4002, a cyborg samurai named Rai struggles to find his morality, while the nanite-filled supersoldier Bloodshot is on a mission to save the citizens of Earth. Will they work together for the greater good? All signs point to no. Oh, and did we mention there are also dinosaurs on the loose, and powerful animal-human hybrid mutants?

Why Should You Care?

Dan Abnett & Adam Pollina take readers into the Valiant world of the distant future in this fast-paced, high-concept science fiction series that introduces a revamped Rai.

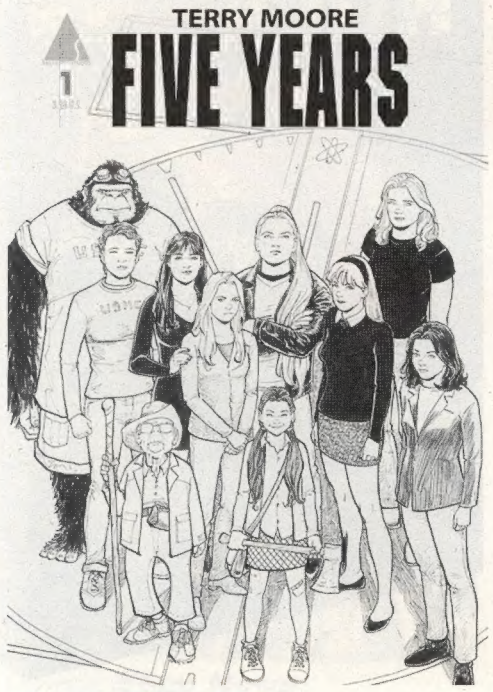
FIVE YEARS #1

Terry Moore (W/A)

(Abstract MAR191321 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The various strands of the "Terryverse" intertwine to form one epic saga, years in the making! A dangerous paper written by Lilith has been leaked to the nations of the world—a paper that contains a formula for the ultimate weapon, and now labs around the globe are attempting to build and test the Phi Bomb. Tambi, in an all-out effort to find the labs and stop them, has enlisted the help of Ivy Raven, Julie Martin, Rachel, and Zoe. Meanwhile, Katchoo and Francine have moved their household—including the kid's new bodyguard, Samantha Locklear—to the beach, where Katchoo devises her own solution to the problem...



Why Should You Care?

Strangers in Paradise, Motor Girl, Rachel Rising, and ***Echo*** all come together in this crossover series written and illustrated by *Terry Moore.*

HASHTAG DANGER #1

Tom Peyer & Paul Constant (W); Fred Harper & Chris Giarrusso (A)

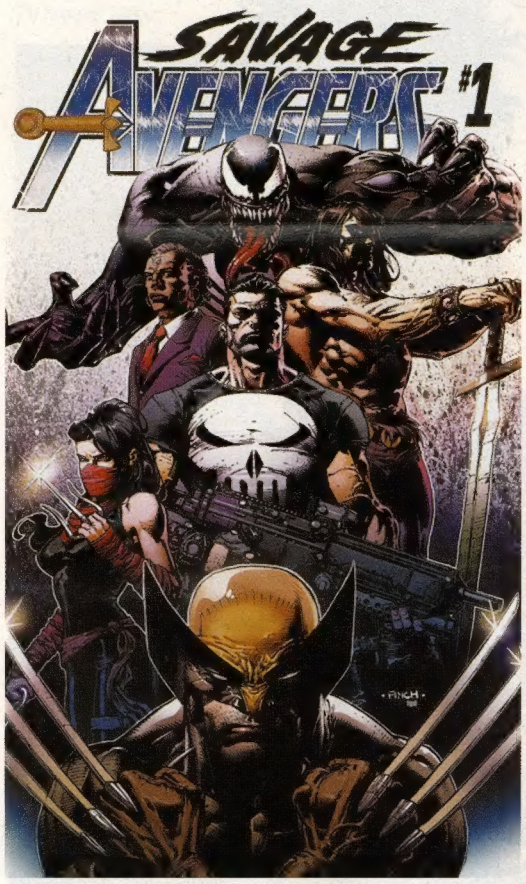
(Ahoy MAR191382 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Three scientific adventurers face strange creatures, lost civilizations, and supernatural threats... when they're not too busy being complete jerks to each other. Plus: Follow the depressing misadventures of Snelson, an over-the-hill comedian who peaked in the '90s.

Why Should You Care?

If *Tom Peyer* is writing it, then it'll definitely be worth the admission price—and considering Ahoy's track record so far, you can count on this one to sell out fast!



SAVAGE AVENGERS #1

Gerry Duggan (W); Mike Deodato (A)

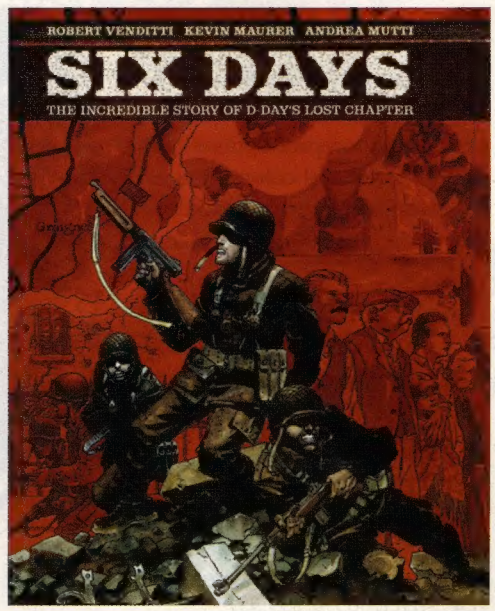
(Marvel MAR190757 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Wolverine! Venom! Elektra! Punisher! And in their midst—Conan the Barbarian! But what is the City of Sickles? Who is the Marrow God? How is the Hand involved?

Why Should You Care?

Gerry Duggan, one of the writers responsible for the success of Marvel's Conan franchise, brings his skills to play in this saga of the most disparate group of heroes imaginable. And wait 'til you see *Mike Deodato's* art on his ultimate Marvel superhero project!



SIX DAYS: INCREDIBLE TRUE STORYOF D-DAY'S LOST CHAPTER HC

Robert Venditti & Kevin Maurer (W); Andrea Mutti (A)

(DC FEB190468 $24.99)

What's the Scoop?

June 1944. World War II. D-Day. One hundred and eighty-two members of the US 82nd Airborne Division parachute into the French countryside—a full 18 miles southeast of their intended target. Witness the true story of an obscure World War II battle that took place for six days in the small village of Graignes, France, and of the men who survived to tell the tale. In the worst misdrop of the D-Day campaign, a group of soldiers are rattled to the core to find themselves even deeper behind enemy lines than anyone had intended. Miraculously, the citizens of Graignes vote to feed and shelter the soldiers—knowing that the decision will bring them terrible punishment if their efforts are discovered by the Germans. And that day of reckoning comes faster than anyone could expect....

Why Should You Care?

Robert Venditti joins with co-writer *Kevin Maurer* to present the compelling tale of forgotten heroes—a group whose ranks include Venditti's own uncle, who fought in the Battle of Graignes and is a key character in this tale.

STAR WARS AGE OF REPUBLIC: BOBA FETT #1

Greg Pak (W); Marc Laming (A)

(Marvel MAR190963 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

As the implacable bounty hunter who tracked down Han Solo, Boba Fett earned his reputation as one of the greatest villains in the galaxy. But what happens when Boba Fett picks up the trail of an actual villain?

Why Should You Care?

Ever since his introduction in that otherwise-wretched ***Star Wars Holiday Special,*** Boba Fett has been a fan favorite. And none of those fans will want to miss this special, which explores another facet of Boba Fett's persona.

STRANGER THINGS: SIX #1

Jody Houser (W); Edgar Salazar (A)

(Dark Horse MAR190270 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A teenage girl with precognitive abilities has struggled through a lifetime of exploitation only to end up the pawn of a government agency that wants to harness her powers for its own ends. You've seen the show ***Stranger Things,*** but this is your first glimpse of the strangeness that happened before the series began!

Why Should You Care?

Find out what happened before the events of Netflix's ***Stranger Things*** in this limited series that introduces an earlier victim of Hawkins Lab experimentation.

SUPERMAN: LEVIATHAN RISING SPECIAL #1

Brian Bendis, Matt Fraction, & Greg Rucka (W); Yanick Paquette, Steve Lieber, & Mike Perkins (A)

(DC MAR190478 $9.99)

What's the Scoop?

As Leviathan enacts a plan to take down Superman, it's up to Lois, Jimmy, and the heroes of the DC Universe to rescue the Man of Steel.

Why Should You Care?

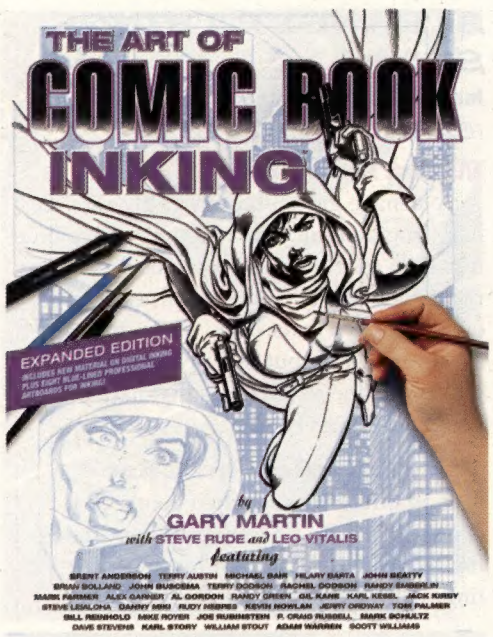
Not only will this special kick off the next major Superman event, but it will also lay the groundwork for a pair of new series for Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen!

FYI: : Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ART OF COMIC BOOK INKING TP (3RD EDITION)

(Dark Horse JAN190471 $34.99)

Learn the techniques, tools, and approaches of some of the finest inkers in comics, and use the included eight full-sized blue-lined art boards featuring pencil art by



top comics illustrators for practice or as samples to show editors. This expanded edition includes new art and text by *Gary Martin* and a bonus chapter on digital inking.

COMICS: CREATE YOUR OWN SC

(Joe Books FEB191821 $9.99)

Comics! Create Your Own is the ideal place for kids to start creating their own comics. Easy-to-follow explanations about the parts of a comic help the young creator get started, with over 80 pull-out worksheets filled with a wide variety of prompts, layouts, and advice to make great comics.

JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR #76

(TwoMorrows JAN192163 $10.95)

Dysfunctional relationships abound in ***Jack Kirby Collector's*** "Fathers and Sons" issue! Odin/Thor, Zeus/Hercules, Darkseid/Orion, Captain America/Bucky—they're all in here, along with many more. As an added bonus, this issue includes an interview with *Gil Kane* conducted the week of Kirby's death, in which Kane eulogizes the King.

MARVELS ANNOTATED #4 (OF 4)

(Marvel MAR190921 $7.99)

Rereading the *Kurt Busiek–Alex Ross* story is lots of fun, but the real appeal here can be found in the fascinating annotations. No matter how much you thought you knew about this landmark series, you're about to learn more!

SANDMAN: OVERTURE GALLERY EDITION

(DC MAY180599 $150.00)

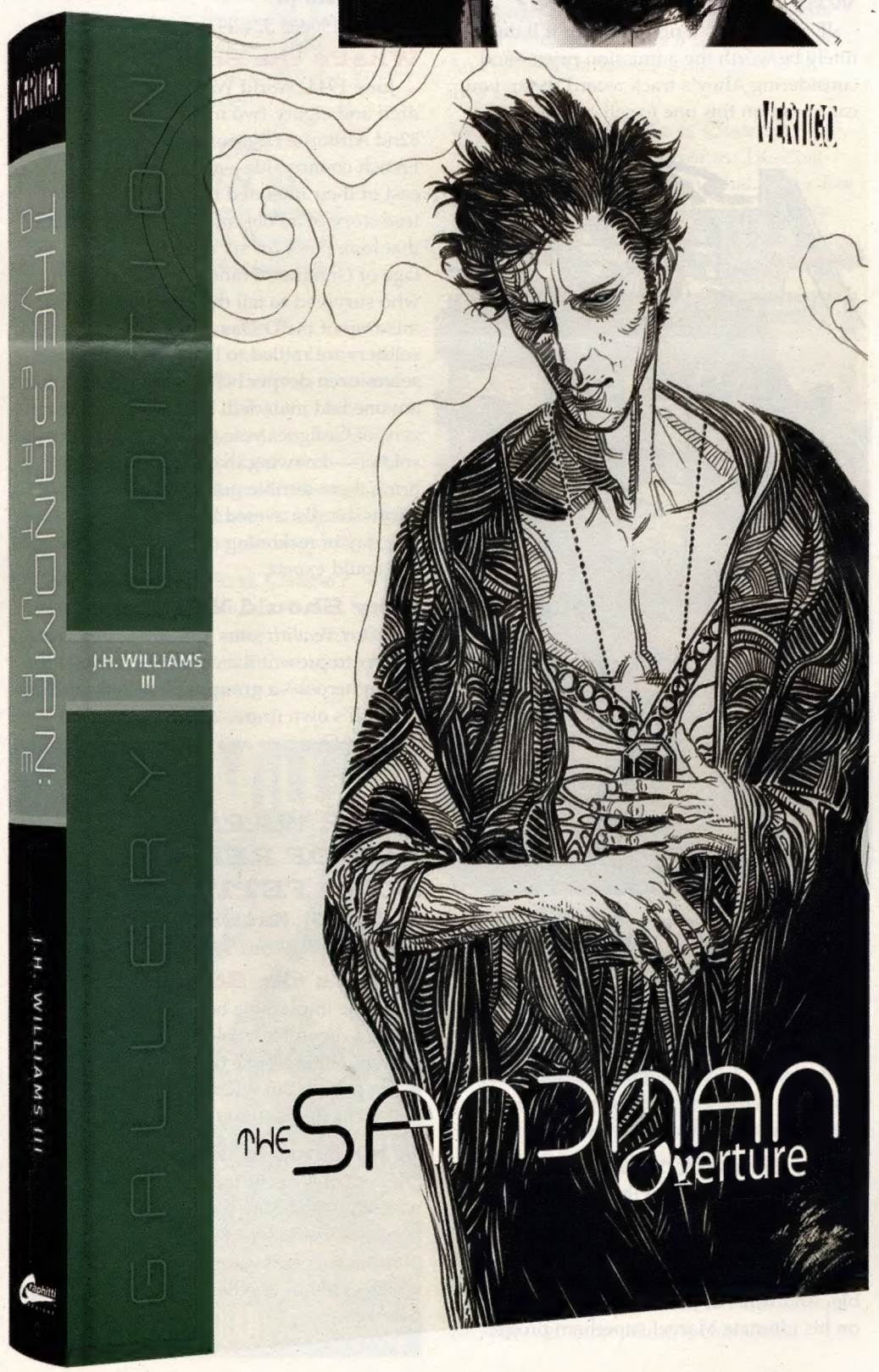
JH Williams III shows off his artistic range and skills in the pages of the new *Gallery Edition* of *Neil Gaiman's* ***Sandman: Overture***. Williams' original art for the entire book has been meticulously scanned at high resolution for its presentation in this large-format, Smythe-sewn hardcover edition. The numerous double-page spreads are displayed as never before with minimal gutter interference, thanks to the lie-flat feature of these books. Though Williams' art will be shown without lettering, this book will also include scaled-down reproductions of the final lettered and colored pages for those who wish to read the story.

Collected Cool: May's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE BATMAN: THE BLACK MIRROR HC

(DC AUG180594 $99.99)

The landmark saga from ***Detective #s 871–881*** (the last pre–New 52 issues) is presented in DC's deluxe oversized, slipcased format.



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN BY STRACZYNSKI OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel NOV181006 $125.00)

The first part of *J. Michael Straczynski* acclaimed run on Spider-Man is compiled in this hefty compendium that includes ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 30–58, 500–514, & 509 Director's Cut.*** From startling secrets about Spider-Man's origins to JMS's unforgettable 9/11 issue—it's in here!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN OMNIBUS HC VOL 4

(Marvel NOV181004 $125.00)

Epic tales by *Stan Lee, Gerry Conway, John Romita, Gil Kane, and Ross Andru,* including the death of Gwen Stacy, the first appearance of the Punisher, the wedding of Aunt May and Doc Ock—they're all here in this collection of tales from ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 105–142, Giant-Size Super-Heroes #1,*** and ***Marvel Super Heroes #14.***

BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT HC

(DC COMICS APR190578 $29.99)

You asked for a hardcover edition of the historic series by *Sean Murphy,* and DC listened: The result is this comic-shop-only hardcover!

GOON: BUNCH OF OLD CRAP TP VOL 1

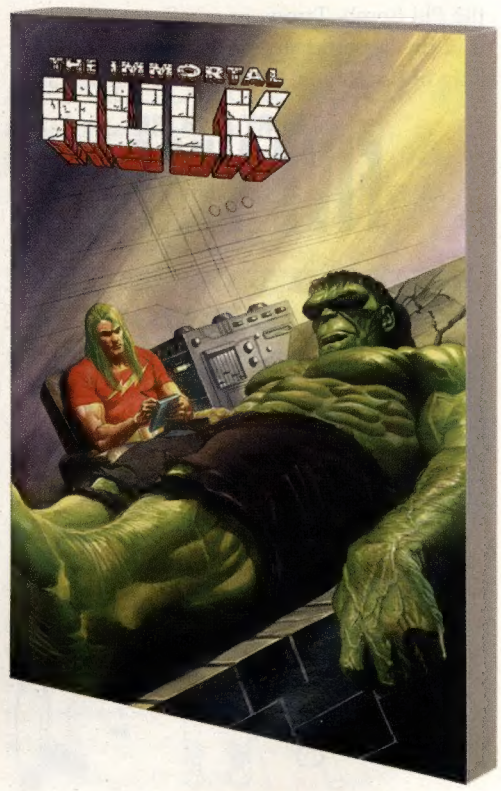
(Albatross MAR191386 $29.99)

Eric Powell presents a deluxe package that includes ***The Goon: Books 0–3*** in one hefty (and affordable) compendium!

IMMORTAL HULK TP VOL 3: HULK IN HELL

(Marvel FEB190998 $15.99)

Marvel's sleeper hit of the year keeps selling out of one printing after another—but you don't have to keep chasing back issues, thanks to this collection of ***Immortal Hulk #s 11–15!***



KIRBY IS FANTASTIC HC KING SIZE

(Marvel NOV181009 $100.00)

This new "King"-sized hardcover (the same "two-up" format used for last year's ***Behold Galactus HC)*** presents original-art-sized, full-color versions of Kirby tales from ***Fantastic Four #s 4, 12, 25–26, 52–53, 66–67, 84–87, & Annual #6.***

MISTER MIRACLE HC

(DC COMICS APR190579 $34.99)

Here's DC's second "by-popular-demand," comic-shop-exclusive hardcover of a best-selling series. Grab it while you can—we want to encourage DC to do more of these!

SHAZAM: THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL HC VOL 1

(DC FEB190605 $49.99)

The classic 1970s series by *CC Beck, Denny O'Neil,* and others reintroduced Shazam to the comics-reading world—and now the first 18 hard-to-find issues are available in one hardcover!

SPEEDBALL TP: MASKED MARVEL

(Marvel MAR191025 $39.99)

More than a quarter-century after he co-created Spider-Man, *Steve Ditko* returned to Marvel to create another high school hero with strange powers—and now you can enjoy Speedball's offbeat exploits in this collection of tales from ***Speedball #s 1–10*** and more.

SPIDER-MAN NOIR COMPLETE COLLECTION TP

(Marvel MAR191005 $24.99)

You loved him in ***Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse***—and now you can read all his earlier adventures in this compilation of ***Spider-Man Noir #s 1–4, Spider-Man Noir: Eyes Without a Face #s 1–4,*** and more.

SUPERMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE NEWSPAPER DAILIES HC—1947-1950

(IDW JAN190858 $49.99)

Thrill to 15 more Golden Age storylines by *Alvin Schwartz & Wayne Boring,* all rarely seen since their newspaper publication some 70 years ago.

Hot Commodities: May's Best Merchandising & Collectibles

BAT FAMILY BATGIRL MULTI-PART STATUE

(DC OCT180632 $80.00)

Bounding into the Gotham City sky atop a gargoyle, with a grapnel gun in her hand, Batgirl is a standout by herself—but she can also be combined with the entire set of Bat Family statues to form a striking diorama!

BATMAN BLACK & WHITE MINI PVC FIGURE 7-PACK SET ONE

(DC Collectibles DEC180670 $35.00)

Sure, you can buy blind-box packs of six of these individual figures—but if you want the *Jim Lee* Nightwing figure, this set is the only place where you can get it!

DC GALLERY BATGIRL COMIC PVC FIGURE

(Diamond Select JAN192545 $49.99)

Two Batgirls in one month? You bet! This 9" sculpture of the Batgirl of Burnside depicts Barbara Gordon in her modern-day costume—and the bargain price makes it affordable for almost any budget!

DC GALLERY SUPERGIRL COMIC PVC FIGURE

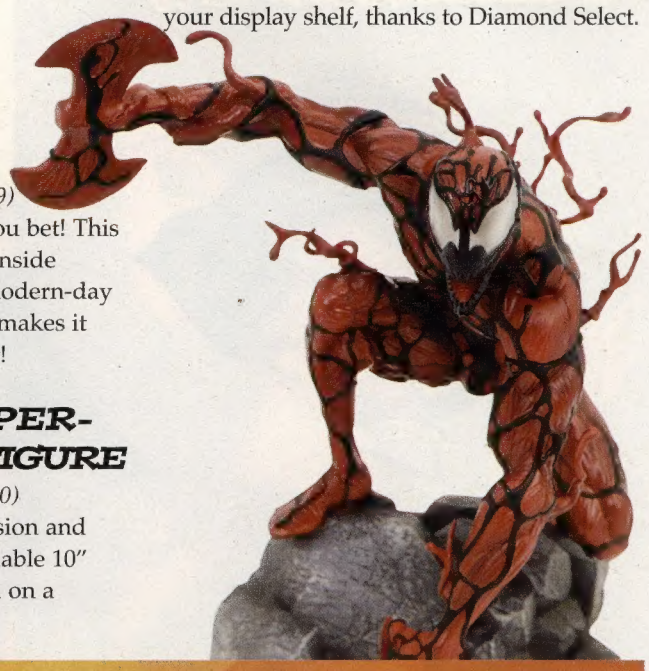
(Diamond Select OCT182227 $45.00)

Supergirl flies out of an explosion and onto your shelf in an ultra-affordable 10" diorama by *James Marsano,* based on a design by *Caesar.*

MARVEL GALLERY CARNAGE COMIC PVC FIGURE

(Diamond Select JAN192550 $49.99)

Just in time for this summer's Venom/Carnage event, Cletus Cassady's blood-red symbiotic alter-ego can claim a primo spot on your display shelf, thanks to Diamond Select.



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